



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

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Ref: 8RA

The Honorable Jon Tester  
U.S. Senate  
Senate Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter dated January 29 to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) proposed Superfund site in Columbia Falls, Montana. I assure you that EPA is committed to ensuring that the former aluminum plant and surrounding area are returned to conditions that are safe for human health and the environment.

As you know, we are now in the process of conducting a remedial investigation to identify the nature and extent of contamination at the site that will help us determine potential clean up actions required to make the site viable for future economic benefit. Moving forward, we will continue to work with local, state and other federal entities and engage the public to ensure they understand the process and options ahead of them. EPA will provide information to the community about EPA resources and programs that may provide technical assistance to help people understand the environmental issues at the CFAC site.

We are planning another public meeting in early April and we'll notify your office of the details when they are finalized. In addition, EPA will conduct community interviews in the coming months with key stakeholders, local media, and interested citizens to identify additional opportunities for public engagement. Later this year, EPA will prepare a community involvement plan that will outline our engagement strategy for the site over the next few years. We will deliver a draft of that plan to your office when it is prepared.

Thank you again for your letter and request that EPA continue its outreach to the community and local leaders. Moving forward, we will make decisions only with significant public input and support.

Please feel free contact me if you have further concerns or questions. Your staff is also welcome to contact our Remedial Program Manager for the CFAC site, Mark Cirian (406.293.6194, [Cirian.mike@epa.gov](mailto:Cirian.mike@epa.gov)), or our Community Involvement Coordinator, Robert Moler (406.457.5032; [moler.robert@epa.gov](mailto:moler.robert@epa.gov)).

Sincerely,

Shaun L. McGrath

Regional Administrator

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